

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1 through 22 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 11, 14, 16, 19, 21, and 22 being independent.

Claims 1, 4-6, 9, 11, 14-16, 19, 21, and 22 have been amended. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-5, 11-15, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over EP 0715246 A1 (Stefik) considered in combination with newly-cited U.S. Patent No. 6,236,727 (Ciacelli). Claims 6-8, 16-18, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Stefik, and the document by Casolino et al. entitled “MPEG-4 Systems, concepts and implementation” (Casalino). Claims 9, 10, 19, and 20 stand rejected under Section 103 as being obvious over the combination of Stefik and Casalino when further combined with Ciacelli. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claims 1, 4, 9, 11, 19, and 22, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of receiving scene data comprised of a plurality of data streams which include at least a copyright data stream, a scene structure data scene, and a plurality of media data streams and constructing a scene by controlling a reproduction operation based on the scene structure data stream in accordance with copyright information in the copyright data stream. With these features, construction of a scene can be controlled so that a media data stream identified to be protected by copyright information is not included until an authenticating process

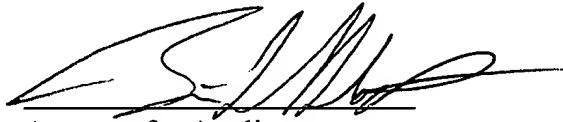
is completed. As recited in independent Claims 6, 16, and 21, the present invention includes, among others, the features of controlling accesses to a 3-dimensional scene description data stream and a media data stream on the basis of copyright information in a copyright data stream and forming a copyright-protected scene and a copyright-unprotected scene from the 3-dimensional scene description data stream on the basis of the copyright information. Applicants submit that the cited art, considered alone or in combination, fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features. Therefore, Applicant submits that the independent claims are patentable over the cited art.

The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 721-5427. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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